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Scarlett Paquette, 2, paints on an easel during a morning activity at Austin's Playroom in Building 62 at Naval Support Activity Bethesda Tuesday.



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan Parde

Lily Oppelt, 11 months, answers a toy phone call in the infant care room at Austin's Playroom Bethesda.

Austin's Playroom: A Place for Families

**By Mass
Communication
Specialist 2nd Class
Nathan Parde
NSAB Public Affairs
staff writer**

Austin's Playroom, dedicated for family members of wounded warriors at Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB), offers a safe place of growth and learning for children during the warrior's recovery process.

Located in Building 62 (Tranquility Hall), the 2,000 sq. ft. playroom was the largest in a chain of 22 playrooms and the first to be built by the Mario Lemieux Foundation on a military base. The playroom opened its doors, Sept. 7, 2011, said Jamila Aziz, child and youth program director at NSAB.

"Our mission is to accommodate the needs and make life easier for the wounded warrior families here," said Aziz. "We are here to support their healing and transition."

Austin's Playroom is available for children of wounded warriors from 6 weeks to 12 years old and has a separate infant room for children from 6 weeks to 17 months old. Staff members are qualified Child Youth Program assistants who teach the Creative Curriculum, which has been adopted by all Child Development Centers within the Department of Defense, said Aziz.

"We heard the concern of the parents – that they want a structured learning environment for their children to be available full-time, so we

purchased the Creative Curriculum," she said. "It's based on observation and the child's individual needs. For example, when the children are doing dramatic play and housekeeping [exercises] together, they are learning how to socialize; they pick up language, how to get along with each other, and how to be creative in creating the rooms for the model [house]."

Dramatic play is just one of many growth areas, or 'centers,' that children may access during the day, said Aziz.

"We have several centers: dramatic, building blocks, reading, manipulative, sand art and a music/listening center. All these areas are there to develop the skills in each individual child, focusing on their social, emotional,

cognitive and physical growth."

A wounded warrior's limited mobility can present many challenges throughout the course of their day, so having a local daycare facility gives them one less thing to worry about, said Aziz.

"Austin's Room is the perfect solution," she said. "[Families] can come from their living quarters and drop off their child within the same building and go on with their business. It just makes life much easier for them."

Tamara Tapper, a wounded warrior spouse, said she and her husband have been with the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Walter Reed Bethesda since November 2011, and have had their son



Brielle Longyshore, 3, drops a red rubber ball to test if it will bounce during a morning experiment in Austin's Playroom.

See **PLAY** page 4

Commander's Column

For eight years, Navy Medicine National Capital Area (NCA) has ensured a seamless integration through Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), representing the Navy component to the Joint Task Force – Capital Medical Region (JTF CapMed), and serving as a conduit of information for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). Next week, on July 31, we will bid the NCA team farewell, and show our appreciation for their tireless efforts, as they disestablish during a ceremony in the Memorial Auditorium at 10 a.m.

In August 2005, NCA was established as one of three regional headquarters for Navy Medicine, serving alongside Navy Medicine West, which oversees Naval Health Clinics on the West Coast, Eastern Pacific, Navy Medicine East and overseeing clinics in Europe. Through BRAC and integration between the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), the NCA became smaller, with fewer clinics and commands in its region, including Walter Reed Bethesda and the hospital ship USNS Comfort. To ensure efficiency within Navy Medicine, the NCA will now disestablish and align under Navy Medicine East.

Over the next few months, you'll likely see NCA staff still working in the tower, as they make this transition and to continue supporting the mission of Navy Medicine. Some may eventually realign under Navy Medicine Headquarters, BUMED, while others may join us here at Walter Reed Bethesda. I'm confident the support they provide in their future endeavors will be of great value, given all they've accomplished.

For years, NCA coordinated activities and supported requests from commands, to include the former NNMC, Naval Health Clinic Quantico, Naval Health Clinic Annapolis and Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River. They facilitated decision-making throughout the BRAC process by providing a regional and Navy Medicine perspective. Their subject matter experts were also in-



involved at the working group level, providing committees with the most accurate data on which to base decisions, through integration. In addition, NCA's facilities team spent countless hours, diligently involved in planning and executing the expansions and renovations onboard NNMC, necessary to accommodate the integration.

Throughout integration, NCA also ensured Naval components, such as staffing and programs, fit into an integrated health system. They've interfaced with Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB), NNMC, WRAMC, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH) and JTF CapMed, helping the counterparts to understand one another's processes. They have indeed been "Movers and Shakers," paving the way ahead for the Nation's Medical Center.

After we officially opened our doors nearly two years ago, as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, NCA continued to provide unwavering support. They ensured naval components were being met both here and at FBCH, such as fitness reports, training, additional duty pays and operation requirements, meanwhile, overseeing their outlying clinics, Quantico, Annapolis and Patuxent River. It's no wonder they've been awarded the "Blue H" award, presented annually by the Navy Surgeon General to recognize outstanding Navy and Marine Corps organizations.

We cannot thank enough the NCA leadership and staff for their unmatched expertise and commitment to excellence. They have truly helped make it possible for us to call ourselves the Nation's Medical Center. Please join in attending the ceremony next week, wishing them fair winds and following seas!

**Commander sends
Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks
MC, USN
Walter Reed National Military
Medical Center**

Bethesda Notebook

Navy Medicine NCA Disestablishment

A ceremony for the disestablishment of Navy Medicine National Capital Area is Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Memorial Auditorium. For more information, contact Chief Hospital Corpsman Steve Curran at 301-295-4966, or Steven.M.Curran.mil@health.mil.

Nutrition for Cancer Prevention, Survival

Dr. Neal Barnard, clinical researcher and one of America's leading advocates for health and nutrition, will be the guest speaker at the Walter Reed Bethesda Prostate Cancer Support Group's quarterly meeting on Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. in the America Building, second floor, Rm. 2525. Barnard will discuss "Nutrition for Cancer Prevention and Survival." For men wanting to attend the program without a military ID, call the Prostate Cancer Center at 301-319-2900, 48 hours in advance of the program for base access. For more information, contact retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or jane.l.hudak.ctr@health.mil or Vin McDonald at 703-643-2658 or vpmjam@aol.com.

Wounded Warriors Town Hall

A joint town hall meeting for recovering warriors and their families with commanders of Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical Command and Naval Support Activity Bethesda will be Aug. 8 in Building 62's Warrior Café at 2:30 p.m. The commanders will discuss information and hear any concerns warriors and their family members may wish to discuss.

DiLorenzo Clinic Pharmacy

The DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic-Pentagon (DTHC) is closed daily from noon to 1 p.m. Patients may process their prescriptions online by visiting the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center pharmacy refill page, or calling 1-800-377-1723 (refills for all Army and Navy sites, press 2 for Army, 3 for Virginia, and 5 for the Pentagon Clinic options); 240-857-7978 (11th Medical Group, Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.); 240-857-4893 (Malcolm Grow Medical Clinic, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.); 703-697-1188 (Flight Medicine Clinic, Pentagon, D.C.). For more information, visit www.dthc.capmed.mil, or the DTHC facebook page.

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Walter Reed Bethesda's Dr. Wah Named President-Elect of AMA

By Sarah Marshall
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

One of Walter Reed Bethesda's own, Dr. Robert Wah, was recently named president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA), a position that will allow him to advocate for physicians and patients nationwide.

Before Wah was elected in June by approximately 525 doctors from across the country, Wah said he had to complete roughly 30 interviews with AMA officials, within 48 hours, and participate in an

hour-long debate in front of approximately 2,000 health care professionals. As president-elect, he will serve for a year, then will be inaugurated and serve as AMA president for a year, beginning in 2014.

"Because the AMA is the largest physician organization in the country, many people view that [role as president] as speaking on behalf of patients and physicians," Wah said. "It's a great honor to be selected by your peers in this important position. It's an amazing time in health care, [and] it's an amazing time to be in a leadership position like this."

An obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN) and a reproductive endocrinologist, Wah served in the Navy Medical Corps for 23 years, retiring in 2006 as a captain. During his military career, he completed his residency at the former National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) and his fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He was then stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego, where he also served as vice chairman of OB/GYN, and ran the reproductive endocrinology division, which started the first in vitro fertilization program for the military on the West Coast.

In 2001, Wah worked for the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the associate chief information officer of the Military Health System. That year, he also began seeing patients and teaching fellows, residents and medical students at NNMC, as well as the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), before the two facilities integrated to form Walter Reed Bethesda. He continues to see patients and teach at Walter Reed Bethesda as well as the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

From 2005 to 2006, Wah was appointed the



Courtesy photo

Dr. Robert Wah

first deputy national coordinator in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services, working to advance the electronic medical records and connect Americans to a nationwide health information network. In 2006, after retiring from the military, he became the chief medical officer of one of the largest information technology companies in the world, providing a clinical perspective on information technology projects, tools and solutions.

"I've had a lot of great opportunities. I really enjoyed my military career and my time since I got out of

See AMA page 10

Spouse Sings Melodies of Sacrifice

By Sharon
Renee Taylor
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

A lump formed in his throat, and tears welled in the eyes of Army Col. (Dr.) Jeremiah Stubbs one Tuesday evening in June, as he sat at home with his eyes glued to the television. With pride, he watched his wife Deidra sing her solo part with the American Military Spouses Choir on the NBC television show, 'America's Got Talent.'

"It was a rush," said Stubbs, the service chief of the Occupational Health Clinic at Walter Reed National Medical Center (WRNMMC). "I was so excited ... I felt so happy for her, and she really loves doing this." He explained, "my wife has performed in large venues before." Deidra sang at the Montrose Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

"She has pictures of her [with record producer] Quincy Jones [as well as songwriting/recording artists] Ashford and Simpson," Stubbs said. Deidra once shared the stage

This Military Spouse's Got Talent

with Gladys Knight and sang background for Celine Dion. "Because she married a soldier it kind of moved her around a lot. She didn't have opportunities, and we were raising two small children. It was great to see her performing for the country, for us, and to be affiliated with a [choir that is] doing something for service members. It was very exciting," he said. "I was proud of all the women who sang in the group."

Deidra performs with the American Military Spouses Choir, organized by a nonprofit organization in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area that provides music therapy programs which focus on service-related conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury to help wounded active-duty service members and veterans recover with music.

"I feel quite fortunate and extremely proud to be a part of this amazing choir," Deidra said. "From the moment I joined, I've always felt a connection. This is an exciting and motivated group and I'm blessed

to be a part of it."

Victor Hurtado of the Center for American Military Music Opportunities said about a year ago the choir auditioned hundreds of spouses of active duty service members, seeking to give them a voice and represent all military services — Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. About 60 percent of the choir members are located in D.C., Maryland or Virginia, with others based along the East Coast, Hurtado said.

"I think it's been really good for all of us. A lot of these women are professional music teachers or voice teachers. They've been trained professionally in musical instruments as well as voice and singing.

"We always say that we represent all military spouses because I think there a lot of spouses sitting at home, who don't realize that they can still follow their dreams," she said. "This is showing them in some way. Not everyone sings. It's bigger than just us. We're sending a message."

Deidra said her fellow choir members are



NBC courtesy photo

The American Military Spouses Choir will perform live at Radio City Music Hall on the NBC Television show, 'America's Got Talent,' in August. Deidra Stubbs is front, second from left.

very supportive to one another. She said they all work together — no matter what their role is in a number — any one of them can sing lead.

Thirty-six of the 50 women that form the choir appeared at the Chicago audition of America's Got Talent which aired on television June 18, according to Hurtado. The choir edged out more than 35,000 acts from around the country, selected as one of the approximately 400 chosen to perform before judges. Their second appearance on the show, taped in Las Vegas, aired on television July 16. Stubbs and his WRNMMC colleagues plan to tune in for the

choir's third appearance on the show, a live performance at Radio City Music Hall, tentatively scheduled for the first week in August according to a spokesperson for the NBC show.

He said his wife and other military spouses have sacrificed a great deal.

"To be married to a military person, you do sacrifice a lot," explained Stubbs, who moved to eight different duty stations in his more than 20 years in the Army. The physician deployed to Kosovo in 2001, and Iraq in 2005.

"We are blessed. I have come home — made it home healthy — from all of my deployments and the

times that I've been overseas," Stubbs explained.

He said that military life hasn't been as hard for his family as it has been for some of his fellow service members who didn't make it home. "Yes, [Deidra] has sacrificed. Many times I've been away from home, and I felt secure and safe where I was located, but she would always have to wonder. And she has friends who have lost family members, and she's witnessed this. She's made a lot of sacrifices. You're essentially running the family by yourself when your spouse is a military person and deployed. She's given a

See TALENT page 8

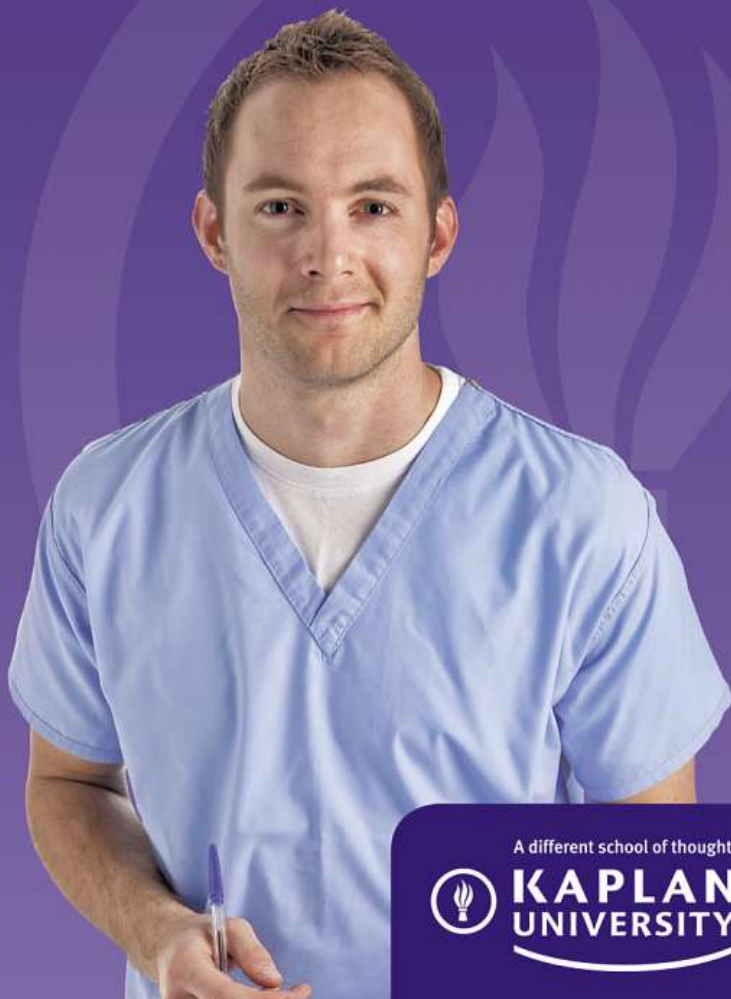
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PLAY

Continued from 1

enrolled in Austin's Playroom for many months now.

"This facility has been an incredible resource for my husband and me," said Tapper. "With all the stressful medical and administrative appointments that we have had to deal with, having a safe, warm and happy environment to place our four-year-old, Roman, has been a huge relief."

She added that Roman enjoys the time he spends at Austin's Playroom.

"My son loves attending this facility. The staff has proven time and time again to be professional, respectful and friendly. I owe Austin's Playroom so much for allowing me to assist my husband in his many challenges."

Austin's Playroom is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information or to enroll a child, contact Tina Cole, wounded warrior liaison, at 301-295-1060.



Peyton Bodle, 2, jumps on a hopscotch pad that features the numbers one through 10, while staff and other children watch.



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan Parde

Wyatt Seals, 1, places toys at the top of a slide while Child Youth Program Assistant Francine Gruskin, an infant care specialist, watches and encourages him.



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Joint Staff Surgeon Visits WRNMMC

Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Joint Staff Surgeon Army Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Nadja Y. West (right) visited Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) July 18. As the Joint Staff Surgeon, she serves as the chief medical advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, providing advice to the Chairman, the Joint Staff and the Combatant Commanders. West was the first Army officer to join the leadership team at the former National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), where she served as NNMC's Deputy Commander for Integration before NNMC integrated with the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center to form WRNMMC. Retired Army Col. Paul F. Pasquina (left), chairman of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Walter Reed Bethesda, explains the technology used in a prosthetic limb, to West, during her visit to the prosthetic lab at the medical center.



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Using Humor to Cope With Furlough Stress

**By Master-at-Arms
Seaman April
Beazer NSAB
Public Affairs
staff writer**

Stages of Healing held a "Furlough Fun" humor workshop at Walter Reed Bethesda (WRB) July 17.

Micah Sickel, Behavioral Health Psychiatrist at WRB, hosts all of the Stages of Healing events throughout the year. "Finding clean humor is hard and this is an alternative to bringing an outside performer. I thought well, why not make performers out of our staff," said Sickel. "Humor is such a great skill to have, both on a personal and professional level. It is a way to dispel conflict. This humor workshop is something that peo-

ple can take home to use in their daily lives as well as back to their clinics to use with patients and co-workers."

The Stages of Healing is not just for patients.

"The purpose of the Stages of Healing is the idea that we all need healing," Sickel mentions. "One of the misconceptions of the Stages of Healing is that we are only catering to those individuals who are wounded or ill. Certainly we do want to attract those individuals to our performances and to our workshops, but in order to get those people better as well as our outpatients to do better and feel better, we need to take care of the providers and family members. We are part of the circle of

healing."

Furlough has been very tough on everyone, said Sickel. This is why the "Furlough Fun" workshop was created.

"As the theme says Furlough Fun, obviously the furlough is not fun," said Sickel. "It is a major strain on those individuals that are in the civilian workforce that are being furloughed, as well as contractors and active duty members who are not being furloughed. They are bearing the brunt of the furlough itself when their civilian colleagues are not in the building doing their jobs. The purpose of the workshop is to really look at some of the craziness of the furlough."

Participants in "Furlough Fun" activities were interactive and



Photo by Master-at-Arms Seaman April Beazer

Participants in the Furlough Fun Humor Workshop discuss ways to make light of furlough issues in the workplace.

had a lot to say about the negative impact furlough has had on everyone.

Jarred Silberman, Navy Strategic Systems Program Associate International Council, attended the activity in hopes of "trying to make light out of the situation." Silberman said, "Humor is always

good. It is relating with others and trying to look on the bright side of things."

The workshop was a great place to learn and to find humor in bad situations. Sickel said, "In the exercises we did [last week], we looked at the outrageousness of some of the aspects of the furlough as well

as the major impacts it's having on all of the individuals here and turned them on their heads to try to find some irony, some humor in them." Silberman believes the workshop is "a good place to air our frustrations and our feelings — knowing that you are not alone."

NSAB Ombudsmen Help Sailors and Their Families

**By Mass
Communication
Specialist 3rd Class
Brandon Williams-
Church NSAB
Public Affairs
staff writer**

"At Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, a Sailor and his wife were having a domestic problem," said Command Ombudsman Michelle Hererra. "The master-at-arms called the ombudsman to come talk to the wife to provide her with resources and help while they dealt with the Sailor and his issues while the ombudsman dealt with the wife and the child's issues."

NSAB has two workers that serve as the command ombudsmen for Sailors and their families, Hererra and Jojo Hector.

Helping Sailors deal with problems on the homefront is one example of how the ombudsmen assigned to her respective command assists Sailors and their families.

The ombudsmen assigned to Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) aim to provide the services established by Admiral Zumwalt many years ago.

According to Naval Instruction OPNAVINST 1750.1g, the Navy introduced the ombudsman program Sept. 14, 1970 by order of the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. Every command per Department of Defense directive 3216.02 appoints an ombudsman to assist the command's mission.

OPNAVINST states that, "the ombudsman program is a Navywide program established to improve mission readiness through improved family readiness. A strong command ombudsman program, both ashore and afloat, will help ensure that families have the information necessary to meet the challenges of a military lifestyle ... the ombudsman program helps commanders and commanding officers have a better understanding of



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Hamilton

The command ombudsman is a volunteer who helps service members and their families within times of need.

the welfare of the command's families. It also assists commands and their families to be better prepared to meet emergency situations."

At NSAB things are a little different than other commands said Hererra.

"Ombudsmen serve as a source of emergency in crisis information. We can provide them with resources that they need

such as anything to deal with Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) if they need someone to talk to. If they are having matters at home or at work, we can guide them with those concerns. We can also talk to the chain of command, keeping it confidential about whom the Sailor was, but addressing the issues with the commanding officer and

the higher ups. Ombudsmen are knowledgeable in all programs that FFSC offers, chaplains support and other support agencies to be able to keep family members informed of available resources. The ombudsman has the authority to request and receive support from FFSC."

"My job is to support the families of the military and to inform

the commanding officer of any problems that a Navy family might have," said Hector.

The command ombudsman is a volunteer who is a spouse of an active duty or selected reserve command member.

"Many military spouses can identify being a command ombudsman as the single most effective way of learning about the Navy and understanding the challenges of their spouses chosen career," said Hererra. "Some even describe their experience as extremely satisfying and often choose to take on the role again at their spouse's next command. It is one way the Navy can take care of its own."

"The ombudsman is a very important position for each command," said Hector. "Any spouse who has the drive and independent spirit to spend all of their extra time giving back to the Navy family is ideal for the position."

WRNMMC Forges Ahead to Promote Research



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Army Lt. Col. Molly Klote, chief of the Department of Research Programs at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, leads the discussion at a Research Town Hall held in Memorial Auditorium, July 11.

By Sharon Renee Taylor
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) continues to support health care-related research. Army Lt. Col. Molly Klote, chief of the Department of Research Programs (DRP) at the military treatment facility, led the discussion at a Research Town Hall held in Memorial Auditorium, July 11.

“Our goal is to promote research,” said Klote, who added that communication between investigators, departments and others involved in the process, is key. DRP utilizes Research Town Hall meetings, monthly “Reach Outs” to clinicians, monthly brown bag roundtable sessions, and biannual research summits, “to get the word out, about things

that are happening and things that are changing. We are evolving,” she said.

Klote provided an overview of research at WRNMMC, discussed current challenges the program faces, outlined new initiatives and offered a view of what lies ahead. She explained DRP reviews, administers and oversees the conduct of more than 900 active research protocols. Some of the protocols involve multi-sites, and include both civilian as well as military facilities.

Research conducted at WRNMMC represents more than a third of all active research protocols across the Military Health System, according to Klote. To meet the challenges of a robust research program, WRNMMC has made efforts to make the protocol review and approval process more efficient, more productive, more transparent and

more accessible with improvements and enhancements to its Scientific Review Committee and Institutional Review Board (IRB).

To support researchers and their teams, DRP continues to utilize their Outreach Program. This program enables researchers to meet with a statistician, molecular biologist, reviewers and other subject matter experts prior to writing and submitting research proposals.

“What it does is assist researchers in crafting productive and appropriate protocols, to help people design protocols that match the needs of our service members and beneficiaries,” explained Deborah Murphy, Academic Research Education Coordinator for DRP.

The department also holds monthly Research Roundtables,

See RESEARCH page 10

Montgomery County Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums Band



Photo story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Hamilton

A group of fire fighters from the Montgomery County Pipes and Drums Band (MCFFP&D) perform traditional Irish and Scottish music around the Healing Fountain in front of Building 62 on board Naval Support Activity Bethesda recently. Organized in 2004, the MCFFP&D is a non-profit organization comprised of public safety members who work within Montgomery County, Md. Their purpose is to display the true valor and prestige of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service not only through excellence in music, but also through pride in themselves, their organization and the community in which they serve.



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TALENT

Continued from 3

lot,” Stubbs said about his wife who is a stay-at-home mom to their two sons, Jeremy, 16, and Jalen, 12.

Now that their sons are older, Deidra volunteers with the Red Cross, sometimes works as a substitute teacher, and participates in all the things a multi-tasking mother would do, Stubbs said. “On a day-to-day basis, she works harder than I do.”

“In order to be with me, and for us to be service members and raise a family, I think that she, to a large degree, put her singing talents and career on hold because she wasn’t going to any studios ... she would sing in church choirs at different duty stations but that wasn’t always consistent,” the colonel said.

For the last several years, both Stubbs and his wife each sing on choirs at their local



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Deidra Stubbs is shown with her husband, Army Col. Jeremy Stubbs, service chief of the Occupational Health Clinic at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

church, Reid Temple AME Church in Silver Spring, Md. He said his wife provides stability for their family.

“That’s well understood. I think that the family is held together by the [non-military] spouse, because, I think that anyone will tell you ... when you’re an active duty service member, it calls for availability and preparations to move at any time. Because of what we do, as an active duty

member we wouldn’t be able to ... I wouldn’t be able to do this, with any level of success, if I were trying to raise my children by myself. And just trying to do all the day-to-day things of running a household, would not be possible, and I think it’s safe to say for most of us, to be in the military, is a family affair – to be active duty in the military, the entire family is engaged.”

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RESEARCH

Continued from 7

brown bag lunch meetings where a diverse group of research team members can meet each other, discuss challenges and learn about improved submission and oversight processes. Mary Kelleher, chief, Research Oversight and Compliance Office/Human Protection Administrator, hosted a roundtable forum at the medical center last week. Researchers filled every chair in the packed session on July 16, as Kelleher answered questions and walked the group through the completion process for an electronic research form.

This year, DRP added a third support initiative, a four-hour “Reach Out” session, held each month, where the program offers on-demand help with questions about IRBNet, a web-based tool that helps researchers and administrative offices manage protocol submission, modification and tracking processes. DRP team members provide personal, one-on-one, on-site support to help clinicians and other researchers with ongoing protocols and planned study proposals.

The addition of department-level Scientific Review Committees (SRC) is paving the way ahead for WRNMMC research. Klotz said individual departments are developing their own SRCs. Added to the research program’s own central SRC, this means that proposals can be rigorously reviewed by peers and colleagues prior to submission for IRB approval — speeding up the review process, as well as enhancing the aims and objectives of research itself. “Ensuring that research questions apply directly to improving our care and treatment of our service members and beneficiaries,” Murphy said.

In April, DRP held its Spring Research Summit, attended by researchers throughout the National Capitol Region. A second summit at WRNMMC is planned for late October.

Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Right: Students participate in a biology short course held in April at the state-of-the-art biomedical laboratory at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The laboratory supports clinical research for studies in the disciplines of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, along with immunology.





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AMA

Continued from 3

the military,” Wah said. “I have the opportunity to have a significant influence on the projects and solutions we deploy in health information technology around the world.”

Army Col. (Dr.) Joseph Gobern, chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Walter Reed Bethesda, believes Wah’s election as AMA president-elect highlights the quality of providers and staff affiliated with the Nation’s Medical Center.

“We are very proud of how Dr. Wah’s clinical and administrative expertise that contributed during a very successful military career, has translated into making an impact on health care delivery in the United States today and into the future,” Gobern said.

He went on to note Wah’s compassion for and understanding of his patients and colleagues, of all medical specialties.

“He brings a unique talent in the area of medical informatics with great potential to improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care,” Gobern said. “He is the best qualified person I know for those challenges facing physicians and the nation today ... He is a mentor to many of our physicians, both junior and senior. We wish him the very best and support him whole-heartedly in this huge new undertaking.”

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